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Dear Neighbors,

As we are now into the fall season, I would like to provide an update on what my office and I have been focused on as of late. We continue to work on legislative matters with my colleagues at the City Council that impact our neighborhoods and quality of life. I have also been fortunate to attend many wonderful events throughout District 2 in recent weeks. Below are some of the highlights:

Pedestrian Safety/Vision Zero Update



CITY OF BOSTON
IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO DISCUSS PEDESTRIAN
CROSSING SIGNALS, TRAFFIC CALMING, AND VISION ZERO

WHEREAS: Pedestrian safety is a critical component of public safety and overall quality of life for our residents, and the City of Boston is committed to pedestrian safety as part of Vision Zero - the goal of having zero traffic fatalities; *and*

WHEREAS: As our city becomes more developed and densely populated, our neighborhoods have more vehicular and pedestrian traffic, and many areas of our streetscape need improvement and change in order to ensure that our pedestrians are safe in our community; *and*

WHEREAS: Last week two pedestrians were struck by a van in Fort Point, and one of them tragically passed away due to her injuries; *and*

WHEREAS: Residents throughout the city have called attention to pedestrian signals that allow for crossing the street at the same time that vehicles have a signal to turn at an intersection; *and*

WHEREAS: Crashes that occur in Boston remind us of the work that must be done to realize Vision Zero, and the measures needed to address pedestrian and traffic safety not just in the Downtown and Fort Point areas, but also in neighborhoods across the city where traffic has grown over the years; *and*

WHEREAS: While lowering the speed limit and the Slow Streets initiative are great measures to ensure pedestrian safety, we should also look at changes to our built environment and measures such as speed humps, raised crosswalks, rapid flash beacons, changing all traffic lights to red when pedestrian crossing signal is activated, and other safety improvements; *and*

THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED:

That the appropriate Committee of the Boston City Council holds a hearing to discuss ways to improve pedestrian safety in our city. Representatives from the Boston Transportation Department and other relevant and interested parties shall be invited to testify.

Filed in Council: September 18, 2019

Councilor Janey, Councilor Flaherty & I recently called for a hearing regarding pedestrian crossing signals, traffic calming and Vision Zero. Our city and District 2 unfortunately experienced another tragedy as a pedestrian fatality occurred on Summer St in Fort Point. The thoughts and prayers of our entire community remain with the friends and families of the victims. I called for this hearing to discuss traffic signals that allow for pedestrians to cross at the same time vehicles are instructed to turn. I would also like to continue discussing traffic calming and a combination of infrastructure improvements, slower speeds, and enforcement. [You can read more here.](#)

Short Term Rental/Airbnb Update



**CITY OF BOSTON
IN CITY COUNCIL
ORDER FOR A HEARING TO DISCUSS
UPDATES ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF
THE SHORT TERM RENTALS ORDINANCE**

- WHEREAS:** In late of 2018, the Boston City Council passed an ordinance regulating short term rentals on platforms such as Airbnb, HomeAway, and others, and Mayor Walsh soon signed it into law, and
- WHEREAS:** Only units that are owner-occupied are eligible to be short term rentals, with the owner-occupants being able to rent out part of the unit, the whole unit that they live in, or a unit within a row or those family building that is part of the same building that the owner lives in, and
- WHEREAS:** The ordinance would also require short term rentals operators to register their units, apply for a license annually, and notify the abaters, and
- WHEREAS:** The ordinance is designed to regulate a rapidly growing industry that affects the residents' quality of life and the City's housing stock, providing transparency on short term rental listings, and removing corporate operators that contribute to the displacement of residents in our neighborhoods, and
- WHEREAS:** The ordinance took effect on January 1st, 2019, while units with evicted leases as of June 1st, 2018 had until September 1st, 2019 to comply, and short term rental units were to register with the City by January 1st, 2019, and
- WHEREAS:** Airbnb subsequently filed a suit against the City of Boston in federal court in November of 2018, arguing that the ordinance places unfair burdens on the platform to remove listings, and the City and Airbnb reached an agreement to not enforce fines and data sharing rules until a judge rules on Airbnb's request for an injunction, and
- WHEREAS:** Airbnb and Boston recently settled the suit. Under the agreement, Airbnb will remove listings that are not registered with the city by December 1st, and will share data such as zip code, rental unit type and host ID with the City, and
- WHEREAS:** With short term rental units now required to register with the City, there are reports that some unregistered and potentially ineligible units are still operating, such as a building in the South End offering units for rent by the night through its website, as well as investor units in South Boston that is not a primary residence or owner occupied but is now registered and continuing to operate, and

I was proud to recently join my colleagues Councilor Edwards and Councilor Wu in calling for a hearing regarding implementation of the Short Term Rental Ordinance and regulation of platforms like Airbnb. Residents have contacted my office regarding large corporations operating in buildings in the South End, potentially ineligible units registered in South Boston, as well as concerns regarding companies seeking conversions to executive suites. It is critical for our housing stock and quality of life that we remove large corporations and investor units from operating in the city.

Resolution In Support of UNITE HERE Local 26 Workers



It was an honor to join Councilor Edwards and Councilor Janey in authoring a resolution in support of the UNITE HERE Local 26 Hotel Workers on strike at Battery Wharf. My father and I have been proud to join these workers on the picket line several times as well. These workers deserve to be treated with dignity, respect, and fairness. [You can read more here.](#)

Community Events in our Neighborhoods

There were so many terrific events in District 2 this month that helped bring our neighbors and communities together. Here are some of the highlights:



I was proud to attend the rededication of the South Boston Vietnam Veterans War Memorial at Medal of Honor Park. We must forever honor the service and sacrifice of our veterans, military, and Gold Star Families.



Boston Police Sgt. Moy, concerned residents and I recently held a walk throughout the Leather District to highlight safety and quality of life issues. Similarly, Boston Police Captain Boyle and I met with neighbors from the Andrew Square Civic Association to discuss areas of concern.



Kristen & I enjoyed a beautiful Sunday afternoon filled with live music and great conversation with the Hayes family, the friends of Hayes Park, and South End residents. The park looks beautiful and serves as a great example of a neighborhood that loves its park.



We had a great time with so many friends and neighbors at this year's South Boston Street Festival. It was good to be with Congressman Lynch, Councilor

Flaherty, fellow veterans, and families throughout the neighborhood. This is a great annual event that showcases our small businesses and the pride that we all share for South Boston. I am proud to also work with Congressman Lynch and my fellow South Boston elected officials on issues impacting our veterans, military, and Gold Star Families.



Thank you to Councilor Zakim for recognizing the 2-time National Champion

Boston Renegades Football Team. We had a great time hosting them at City Council to honor their outstanding achievements and gender equality in organized athletics.



We recently did a walking tour with the staff from the Rose Kennedy Greenway, along with residents of Chinatown and Bay Village. We will continue to work on making sure that our parks and open spaces can be enjoyed and accessed by all of our communities.



I recently had the chance to join the Josiah Quincy Orchestra Program at the Wang YMCA Playground opening. Thank you to the kids for trying to teach me a note or two.



If I can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact my office at 617-635-3203 or ed.flynn@boston.gov.

